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WEEKLY REVIEW

SERIES "DL"

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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents pages.

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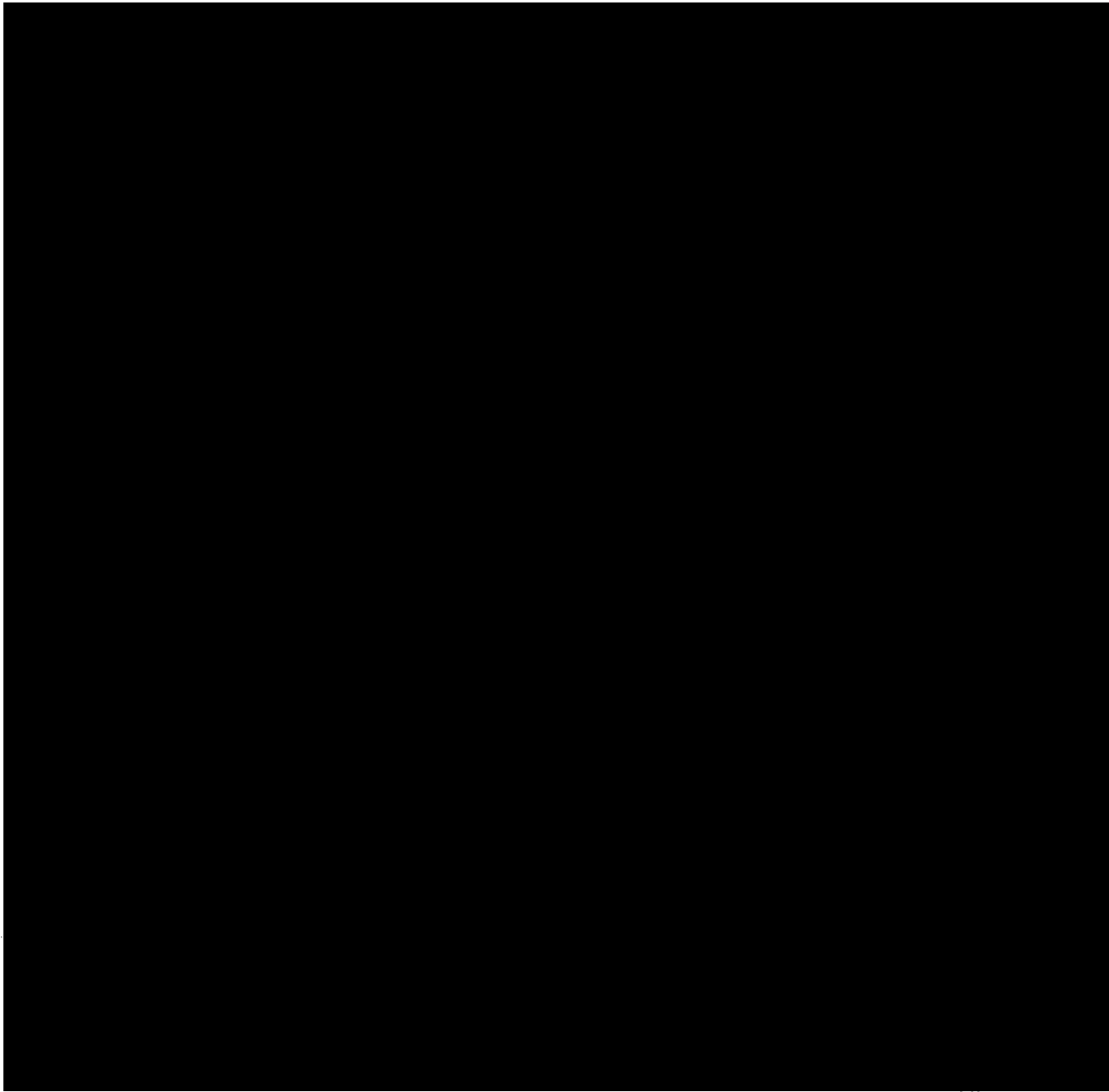
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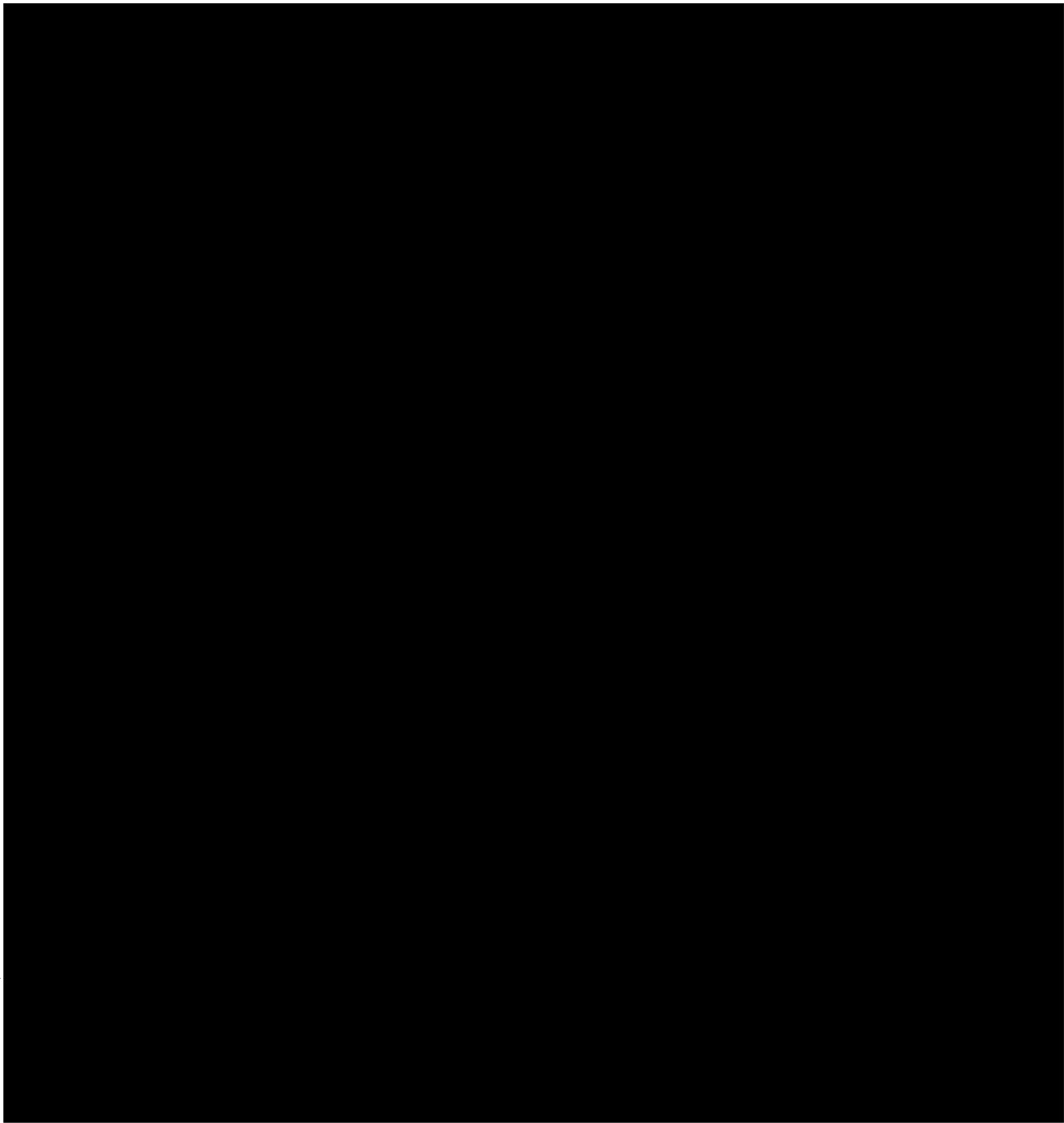
SINO-SOVIET BORDER CONFRONTATION EASES

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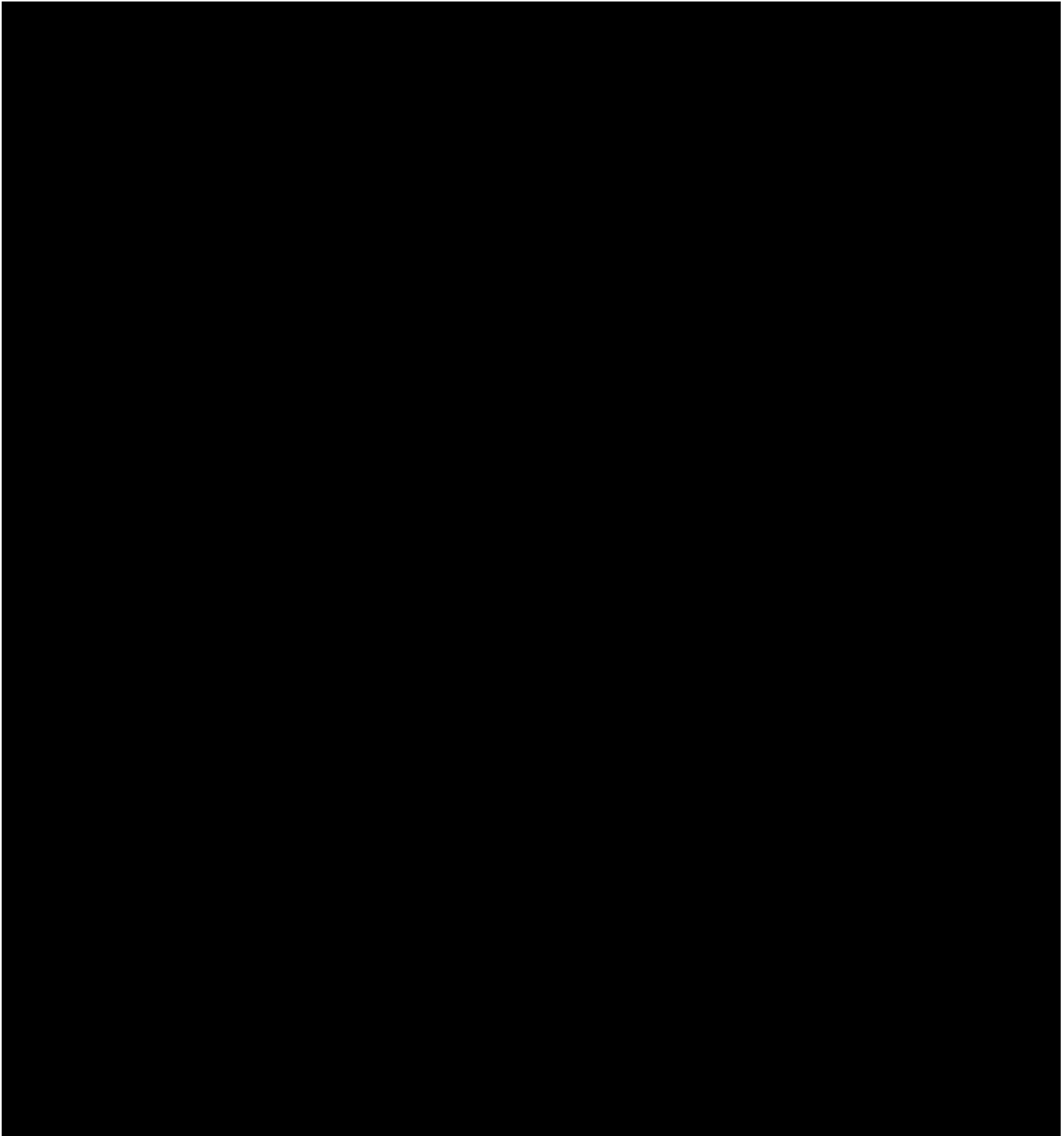
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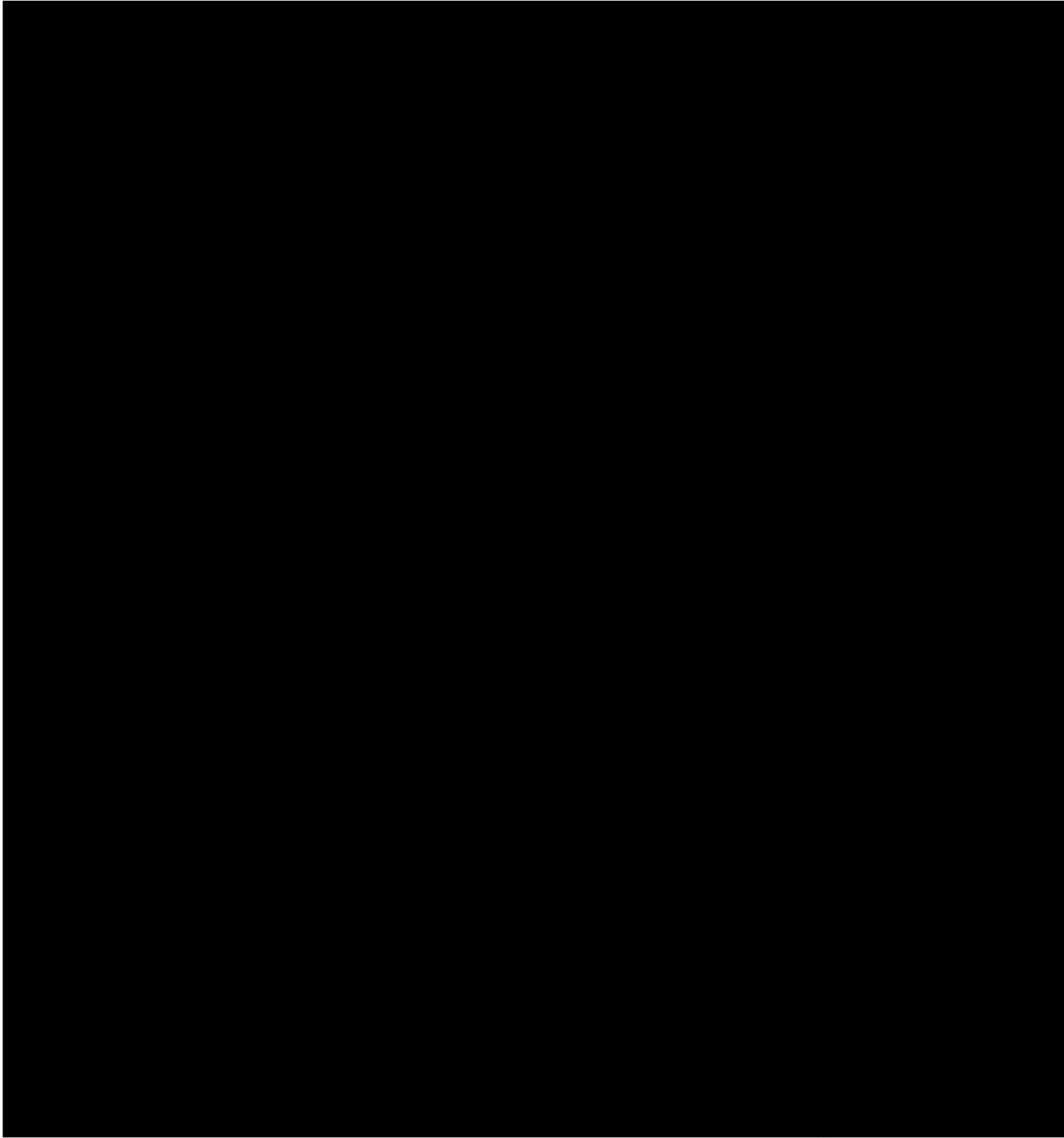
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SINO-SOVIET BORDER CONFRONTATION EASES

No shooting has been reported in the area of the disputed island in the Ussuri River on the Sino-Soviet border since 19 March, and the situation there appears to have stabilized. Soviet military attention to this sector of the border has remained high [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Chinese, for their part, made helicopter flights along the border on 25 March.

During the past week, Peking has shown little interest in continuing propaganda exploitation of the border conflict, and probably believes it has already made a strong case regarding ownership of the island. Chinese commentary on the clashes has all but ended and there have been no anti-Soviet demonstrations in China for almost two weeks.

Soviet propaganda output is still voluminous with the accent largely on patriotic themes. There is also a hint of a shift in focus from the disputed island

to the larger issue of border demarcation. [REDACTED]

Although no statement has yet come forth, Moscow might profess a willingness to negotiate in order to gain a propaganda advantage. The Russians, however, undoubtedly realize that Peking would demand a Soviet recognition of the 19th century treaties establishing the present frontiers as "unequal treaties" before entering into any border negotiations. A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement on 10 March denounced Moscow for refusing to concede this point during the boundary talks in 1964. As a result, any serious dialogue on border problems seems unlikely. Spring floods will inundate the island in a few weeks and reduce the chance of further clashes. [REDACTED]

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